

Message Text

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TAGS: MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: CANADIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. STATE 200959 DTG 222356 Z AUG 75

B. STATE CTLQGL DTG 252330Z JUL 75

C. STATE 211995 DTG 052351Z SEP 75

SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR BRUCE'S INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR MENZIES ON STANDARDIZATION REVEALED CANADIAN SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR US INITIATIVE. MENZIES ENDORSED US EFFORT TO ACHIEVE FRENCH PARTICIPATION; CITED NUMEROUS OBSTACLES WHICH MIGHT SLOW COMPREHENSIVE NATO-WIDE STANDARDIZATION; AND, THERFORE, RECOMMENDED THAT MINISTERS CONCENTRATE FIRST STAGE EFFORTS ON IMPOROVED INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDIZATION MEASURES IN LOGISTICS AREAS.

END SUMMARY

1. AMB BRUCE CALLED ON AMB MENZIES (CANADA) ON SEPTEMBER 11 TO DISCUSS STANDARIDZATIONALONG LINES ADVANCED REF A. MENZIES CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOWED RECEPTIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION AND EMPHASIZED THAT CANADA WOULD SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF IMPROVED

NATO STANDARDIZATION, DESPITE MANY OBSTACLES WHICH REMAIN.

MENZIES' COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS ARE SET FORTH IN FOLLOWING PARAS.

2. CANADIAN VIEWS ON US STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE: AMB MENZIES SAID CANADA WOULD "WELCOME""US INITIATIVE "EN PRINCIPE" AND "SUPPORT YOU RIGHT DOWN THE WAY". HE SAID CANADA "AGREED PERFECTLY" WITH US EFFORTS TO SECURE FRENCH PARTICIPATION VIA THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. HE SAID THAT CANADA, AS A NATION WITH LIMITED ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION CAPACITY, RECOGNIZED IT WOULD NOT PLAY A BIG ROLE IN STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS. HOWEVER, OTTAWA WISHED TO BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT FORTHCOMING US STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVES AND HOPED TO PRESERVE ITS ACCESS TO THE US AND EUROPEAN MARKETS.

3. PROGRESS TOWARD STANDARDIZATION: MENZIES ASKED BRUCE WHAT HE "REALLY" THOUGHT WASHINGTON EXPECTED FROM THIS STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE OVER NEXT 2-3 YEARS. CITING SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STRONG PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO STANDARDIZATION, BRUCE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT REAL PROGRESS DEPENDED TO A SIGNIFICANT EXTENT ON INTENSIFYING EFFORTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM MANZIES, BRUCE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT 1976 US ELECTIONS WOULD IMPEDE US EFFORTS TO PROMOTE STANDARDIZATION. CANADIAN ARMAMENTS COUNSELOR (MCNAUGHTON) EXPRESSED FEAR THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US INDUSTRY TO WORK WITH "HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED" EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS IN A STANDARDIZATION EFFORT. HE SAID EUROPEANS FELT COMPELLED TO CONTINUE EXPENSIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS EVEN IF THEY DUPLICATED US EFFORTS, AND HE CITED EXAMPLE OF DRAMATIC IMPACT MRCA PROGRAM HAD ON MANY PHASES OF ITALIAN INDUSTRY. MENZIES SAID MIDDLE EAST CRISIS FURTHER COMPLICATED SITUATION, BECAUSE COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SECURE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD ALLOW THEM TO SELL STANDARDIZED PRODUCTS LIKE AN F-16 TO OIL-RICH ARAB NATIONS. MENZIES SAID THESE FACTORS, PLUS RELUCTANCE ON PART OF EUROPEANS AND EVEN SOME US CONGRESSMEN TO REMOVE A "PROTECTION" FROM ARMAMENTS INDUSTRIES, WOULD SLOW PROGRESS TOWARD COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDIZATION.

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4. TACTICS FOR ACHIEVING STANDARDIZATION: ALTHOUGH MENZIES SAID HE HOPED ALLIES WOULD AGREE TO COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDIZATION PROGRAMS, HE RECOMMENDED THAT MINISTERS CONCENTRATE FIRST ON IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY AND LIMITED STANDARDIZATION MEASURES IN AREAS SUCH AS POL AND AMMUNITION. HE SAID CANADIAN FORCES IN CENTRAL REGION, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF THEY COULD DRAW FUEL FROM BOTH FRG AND US SOURCES AND IF ALL USED THE SAME AMMUNITION. MENZIES ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF COORDINATING ACTIVITIES OF CNAD AND PROPOSED STEERING GROUP WITH ONGOING EFFORTS BY MILITARY COMMITTEE TO INCREASE ROLE OF MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION.

5. AM BRUCE LEFT COPY OF TALKING POINTS (PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A) WITH AN ATTACHMENT ENTITLED "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATIONZ WHICH DREW ON PARA 6A-H OF REF B. MENZIES SAID HE WOULD SEEK OTTAWA GUIDANCE ON THESE ITEMS AND CLOSED DISCUSSION BY SAYING, "I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IN A BROAD GENERAL SENSE, CANADA IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THIS US INITIATIVE".
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